

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An optical fiber guide device comprising:

a guide body operable to guide and hold an optical fiber cord received and arranged bent along an arc therein ~~and bent in a bending direction~~, said guide body including a guide receiving part ~~formed in~~ having a shape base bordered substantially perpendicularly by a pair of peripheral walls for flanking said optical fiber cord to form a trough having an opening opposite said base in a substantially U-shape cross-section ~~oriented substantially perpendicular to said bending direction~~, said base having a planform following the arc, first and second members of said pair of peripheral walls being respectively convex and concave to said trough, said trough able to receive ~~and arrange~~ said optical fiber cord through said opening, said pair of peripheral walls causing said optical fiber cord to bend in said trough along the arc; and

a mounting part provided on an outer face of said guide body and adapted to be fitted to an object of installation in which said optical fiber cord is to be installed.

2. (Original) An optical fiber guide device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said guide groove or said guide channel is formed in a shape bent at a bending radius which is larger than the smallest bending radius of said optical fiber cord.

3. (Currently Amended) An optical fiber guide device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said guide body further includes a lid part ~~adapted to be attached~~ attachable to said guide receiving part so as to ~~close~~ cover said opening.

4. (Previously Presented) An optical fiber guide device as claimed in claim 3, wherein either one of said guide receiving part and said lid part is provided with stoppers which extend in a direction perpendicular to an axial direction of said optical fiber cord so as to clamp said optical fiber cord which is received and arranged in said guide receiving part

from both sides, and bite a coating of said optical fiber cord received and arranged in said guide receiving part thereby to position and hold said optical fiber cord in its axial direction.

5. (Original) An optical fiber guide device as claimed in claim 1 for guiding and holding an optical fiber cord of a multi-core parallel arranged type in which a plurality of optical fibers are coupled in parallel,

wherein said guide body is provided with a guide groove or a guide channel which can contain and hold said optical fiber cord in a posture where said optical fibers can be bent at the same bending radius.

6. (Previously Presented) An optical fiber guide device as claimed in claim 3, wherein said lid part includes a lid body and at least one projection part disposed substantially perpendicular to said lid body, said receiving part includes at least one recess part for receiving said at least one projection part.

7. (Previously Presented) An optical fiber guide device as claimed in claim 6, wherein said at least one projection part includes a locking hole, said at least one recess part includes a locking projection that fits into said locking hole to hold said lid part to said receiving part.

8. (Previously Presented) An optical fiber guide device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said mounting part includes

a fitting post extending at a base of the mounting part from said guide body to a distal end for insertion into a mounting hole of an installation,

a first pair of locking pieces at said base for impinging against a first surface of said installation, and

a second pair of locking pieces at said distal end for impinging against a second surface of said installation after passing through said mounting hole.

9. (New) An optical fiber guide device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said mounting part is formed by locking pieces.

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending. By this Submission, claims 1 and 3 are amended under 37 CFR §1.121(c)(1)(ii), and claim 9 is added. Claim 1 is amended to recite features supported in the specification on page 4, line 21 – page 5, line 7, page 6, line 9 – page 7, line 2, and Fig 2. Claim 3 is amended to improve clarity. Claim 9 is added to recite features supported in the specification at page 7, line 3 – page 8, line 18. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiners Wood and Healy during the April 22, 2003 interview. The points discussed during the interview are incorporated in the remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Final Office Action indicates that claims 4 and 8 contain allowable subject matter. However, for the reasons discussed below, Applicant asserts that all of claims including 1-3 and 5-7 are also allowable.

Reconsideration based on the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Amendment Entry after Final Rejection

Entry of this amendment is proper under 37 CFR §1.114 as a Submission accompanied by a Request for Continued Examination. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Amendment.

II. Claims 1-9 Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Final Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent 5,929,380 to Carlson, Jr. *et al.* (Carlson). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Carlson fails to teach or suggest an optical fiber guide device including, *inter alia*, a guide body operable to guide and hold an optical fiber cord received and bent along an arc therein, the guide body including a guide receiving part having a base bordered substantially perpendicularly by a pair of peripheral walls for flanking the optical fiber cord to form a

trough having an opening opposite the base in a substantially U-shape cross-section, the base having a planform following the arc, first and second members of the pair of peripheral walls being respectively convex and concave to the trough, the trough able to receive the optical fiber cord through the opening, the pair of peripheral walls causing the optical fiber cord to bend in the trough along the arc, as recited in claim 1.

Instead, Carlson discloses an outside corner fitting 10 for a duct system having an arcuate channel 16 with side walls 24 that form an opening and a bottom wall 26 with a planform that conforms to the direction of bending curvature. The side walls 24 disclosed by Carlson are substantially parallel to the plane of curvature, and are topped by a cover 12 over the opening. See col. 2, lines 41-61 and Figs. 1-5 of Carlson. According to Carlson, a routing cable inserted into the channel 16 would press against the cover 12, rather than the side walls 24 that form an integral portion of the structure for the duct system, as provided in Applicant's claimed features. The side walls of Carlson are straight, rather than curved in an arc, and so Carlson fails to teach or suggest the features in Applicant's claims. Because the base wall of Carlson has a curved planform rather than rather than substantially flat, Carlson teaches away from Applicant's claimed features, and therefore does not anticipate the subject matter in Applicant's claims.

The Final Office Action further rejects claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent 6,504,988 to Trebesch *et al.* (Trebesch). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Trebesch fails to teach or suggest an optical fiber guide device wherein the lid part includes, *inter alia*, a lid body and at least one projection part, and the receiving part includes at least one recess part for receiving the at least one projection part, as recited in claim 6.

Further, Trebesch does not close the lid part, as recited in claim 3 from which claim 6 depends. Nor does Trebesch teach or suggest a mounting part formed by locking pieces and provided on an outer face of the guide body, as recited in claim 1 from which claim 3 depends.

Instead, Trebesch discloses a trough section 570 having a base 572 attached to an outer wall 274 and a curved portion 586. Opposite the base 572 are tabs 564 with an opening end 565 and a hinge end with a snap 566 in the form of a U-shaped leaf spring. See col. 7, line 56 – col. 8, line 16 and Fig. 22-25 of Trebesch. Because Trebesch provides a tab 564 for restraining rather than covering a cable in the trough 570, Trebesch teaches away from a lid to close the opening as recited in claim 3, from which claim 6 depends. Further, the snap 566 of Trebesch enables the tab 564 to pivot over the trough 570, and hence does not teach or suggest a projection part received by a recess part in the receiving part, as recited in claim 6. Because Trebesch fails to provide either a lid or complimentary projection and recess parts, Trebesch does not anticipate Applicant's claimed features.

A claim must be anticipated for a proper rejection under §102(a), (b) and (e). This requirement is satisfied “only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” See MPEP §2131. Applicants assert that neither Carlson nor Trebesch anticipate Applicant's claimed features. Therefore both applied references fail to satisfy this requirement for any of the pending claims.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully asserts that the independent claim is now patentable over the applied reference. The dependent claims are likewise patentable over the applied references for at least the reasons discussed as well as for the additional features they recite. Consequently, all the claims are in condition for allowance. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 be withdrawn.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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